



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2019

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Scallop Research Set-Aside Program Supports 13 Projects for 2019-2020; Resource Surveys Once Again Top the List

The Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program will support 13 projects during the 2019-2020 award cycle that address resource surveys, dredge efficiency, bycatch reduction, fishery impacts on loggerhead turtles, potential offshore wind development impacts on larval and juvenile scallop transport, and more (see table on page 2 for full list). The projects focus on scallop research priorities identified by the New England Fishery Management Council, which ranked resource surveys as the highest priority.

The awards were announced [today](#) by the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Collectively, these awards are expected to generate more than \$14 million. This includes an estimated \$2.8 million to fund the research and \$11.4 million to compensate industry partners who harvest set-aside quota. No federal money is involved, making this a true industry-funded program.

- The New England Council approved research priorities in June 2018 for the [2019-2020 RSA projects](#).
- The Council will develop a new list of priorities at its June 2019 meeting for 2020-2021 projects.

The Council established the Scallop RSA Program to address research questions that support management of the scallop resource. Each year during the specification-setting process, the Council “sets aside” 1.25 million pounds of scallops to carry out RSA projects. The work is conducted collaboratively between

fishermen and scientists. Research results directly contribute to stock assessments and help the Council better manage the fishery overall.

While the Council sets the annual research priorities, NOAA Fisheries manages the RSA competition and administers the program.



The Barnegat Light, NJ-based F/V Kathy Ann is a long-time contributor to cooperative research under the Scallop RSA Program. – Jonathon Peros/NEFMC photo

Learn More on the
[NEFSC RSA Webpage](#)
and View the
[Award Announcement](#)



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2019-2020 Scallop Research Set-Aside Project Selections

Institution (Collaborators)	Project Title	Set-Aside Award Based on \$9.50 Per Pound of Scallop Meats
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	An Optical Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance, Distribution, and Growth in the Nantucket Lightship Scallop Management Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 80,009 pounds Estimated Value: \$760,087 Research Cost: \$190,022
Coonamessett Farm Foundation	An Optical Assessment of Sea Scallop Abundance and Distribution in the Southern Closed Area II Scallop Management Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 117,273 pounds Estimated Value: \$1,114,095 Research Cost: \$278,254
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (Kitware Inc.)	Improving Automated Detection of Scallops and Flounder in Optical Surveys with Stereo Detection Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 84,625 pounds Estimated Value: \$803,936 Research Cost: \$200,984
Coonamessett Farm (Roger Williams University, AOLA)	Seasonal Survey in the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 165,544 pounds Estimated Value: \$1,572,670 Research Cost: \$393,168
Coonamessett Farm Foundation (Roger Williams U.)	Understanding the Impacts of the Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery on Loggerhead Sea Turtles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 61,517 pounds Estimated Value: \$584,415 Research Cost: \$146,104
UMass Dartmouth SMAST (CVision Consulting)	Drop Camera Surveys Examining the Scallop Population of the Mid-Atlantic and Assessment of Automated Scallop Count and Measurement Algorithm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 106,127 pounds Estimated Value: \$1,008,205 Research Cost: \$242,440
UMass Dartmouth SMAST (CVision Consulting)	High-Resolution Drop Camera Surveys to Track Scallop Aggregations in Closed Area I Access Area, Nantucket Lightship, and Great South Channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 45,809 pounds Estimated Value: \$435,190 Research Cost: \$106,281
SMAST Two-Year Project (WHOI)	Assessing Potential Impacts of Offshore Wind Facilities on Regional Sea Scallop Larva and Early Juvenile Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 116,452 pounds Estimated Value: \$1,106,291 Research Cost: \$276,573
Virginia Institute of Marine Science Two-Year Project	A Cooperative High Precision Dredge Survey to Assess the Mid-Atlantic Sea Scallop Resource Area in 2019 and 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 184,654 pounds Estimated Value: \$1,754,209 Research Cost: \$350,842
VIMS Two-Year Project (SMAST)	In Situ High-Definition Camera Monitoring to Evaluate Catch Efficiency and Performance of a Survey Dredge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 88,941 pounds Estimated Value: \$844,936 Research Cost: \$211,234
Maine Department of Marine Resources (University of Maine)	Assessment of Sea Scallop Distribution and Abundance in the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 35,258 pounds Estimated Value: \$334,950 Research Cost: \$100,485
National Fisheries Institute (Rutgers University)	Can Cutting Bar Modifications Reduce Bycatch and Increase Catch Efficiency in the Atlantic Sea Scallop Dredge Fishery?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 52,452 pounds Estimated Value: \$498,293 Research Cost: \$149,488
CFRF – Fisheries Research Foundation (Gulf of Maine Inc.)	Piloting a Novel Dredge Type to Reduce Bycatch and Improve Fuel Efficiency in the Southern New England Scallop Fishery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award: 70,459 pounds Estimated Value: \$669,357 Research Cost: \$185,933

More information is available in the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's [announcement](#).